REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 28 and 31 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

EXAMINER'S RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT FILED MAY 7, 2008:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, numbered paragraph 3, the Examiner submitted his arguments with respect to Applicants' amendment filed May 7, 2008.

In view of the arguments and amendments filed herein, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's concerns have been overcome.

ENTRY OF RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because of all of the following:

(a) at least certain of the rejected claims have been canceled thereby at least reducing the issues for appeal;

(b) it is believed that the amendments of claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 28 and 31 put this application into condition for allowance;

(c) the amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicants believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed;

(d) the amendments of claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 28 and 31 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised. **The features added to the independent claims have already explicitly been reviewed, searched, and considered by the Examiner**; and

(e) the amendments place the application at least into a better form for appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

In addition, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." (Underlining added for emphasis) Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the

claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.". The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at pages 4-19, numbered paragraph 5, claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472; hereafter, Inoue) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480; hereafter, Tanaka). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include features of claim 4, for example. The remaining independent claims have been similarly amended, with differing scope and breadth.

It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 sets forth a method of compressing image data comprising: detecting a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes; and compressing the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio, wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image data. Amended independent claims 15, 28, and 31 include similar features, with differing scope and breadth.

As noted, for example, in paragraph [0020] of the specification of the present application, the "degree of an image quality may include a draft, normal or best, as shown in FIG. 2," and "The type of image data includes, for example, a text, a graphic, a text and graphic, a document or a photo, and the like." The use of the degree of image quality and the selection from the different types of image data are not taught or suggested by Inoue or Tanaka, alone or in combination.

The Examiner admits that Inoue does not expressly disclose wherein one of the display modes is a print mode. It is respectfully submitted that, as shown in the Abstract of Inoue, set forth below for the convenience of the Examiner, Inoue teaches selecting a number of image pixels and a compression rate:

> Selection candidates for number of imaging pixels and for an image compression rate are displayed in a two-dimensional arrangement on a setting screen for setting an image quality, and combinations of selectable number of image pixels and a compression rate can be presented to a user. An instruction for moving a cursor which displays a selected position on the screen is received, and a setting can be changed to a number of pixels and a compression rate which are pointed by the cursor after a position of the cursor is designated. More specifically, numbers of pixels to be selected are 2400.times.1800, 1280.times.960, and 640.times.480, and compression rates to be selected are Fine,

> Normal, and Basic. When the user selects the number of pixels, candidates of the selectable compression rate for the number of pixels are displayed. A number of photographable images and remaining time for recording a moving image which are calculated from a capacity of a storage medium are preferably displayed in combination in accordance with combinations of the number of pixels and the compression rate. (emphasis added)

Thus, Inoue teaches selecting a number of image pixels, but does not teach or suggest detecting a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes; and compressing the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio, wherein a variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image data, as is recited in amended independent claim 1 of the present application.

In the Abstract of Tanaka, recited below for the convenience of the Examiner, Tanaka teaches printing images from an imaging apparatus:

> An imaging apparatus capable of outputting a sensed image to a printing apparatus issues a print request command containing a parameter for designating a print mode to a PD printer apparatus connected via an interface. The imaging apparatus transmits image data corresponding to the print mode on the basis of a data request from the PD printer apparatus. The imaging apparatus transmits, to the PD printer apparatus, the print request command in which the parameter is changed to invalid data, thereby designating printing of the transmitted image data. (emphasis added)

Also, in col. 2, lines 3-18, recited below for the convenience of the Examiner, Tanaka teaches printing an image directly from an imaging apparatus, such as for example, a digital camera:

> The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation, and has as its object to provide an imaging apparatus which transmits destination of a print mode contained in a print request command in designating printing from the imaging apparatus Lo (to) a printing apparatus, designates the start of print operation by the print request command, and thus expands an existing print request command without newly adding any discharge command, Thereby minimizing the design change and solving the above-described problems, a system having the imaging apparatus and a printing apparatus, and a control method therefor. In addition the apparatus includes means for transmitting to the printing apparatus, the print request command in which a parameter for designating the print mode is changed to invalid data to instruct printing of the image data transmitted by the transmission means. (emphasis added)

In addition, Tanaka, in col. 3, line 62 through col. 4, line 3, recited below for the convenience of the Examiner, teaches a photo-direct printer that prints image data:

> FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view showing a photo-direct printer 1000 according to the embodiment of the present invention. The photo-direct printer 1000 has a general PC printer function of receiving data from a host computer (PC) and printing the data, and a function of directly reading and printing image data stored in a storage medium such as a

memory card, or receiving image data from a digital camera connected to the printer apparatus and printing the data. (emphasis added)

As noted in col. 1, lines 9-12 of Tanaka, Tanaka teaches: "The present invention relates to an imaging apparatus such as a digital camera, a system having the imaging apparatus and a printing apparatus, and a control method therefor." (emphasis added)

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Tanaka teaches direct printing of an image from an imaging device such as a digital camera without utilizing a variety of printing modes that provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image data, and thus, does not teach or suggest a method of compressing image data comprising: detecting a specified compression ratio corresponding to a printing mode selected by a user from compression ratios corresponding to a variety of printing modes; and compressing the image data according to the detected specified compression ratio, wherein the variety of printing modes provide varying settings to account for factors including at least one of a degree of an image quality and a type of image data, as is set forth in amended independent claim 1, and in independent claims 15, 28 and 31 in similar fashion, with differing scope and breadth.

Thus, even if combined, Inoue and Tanaka do not teach or suggest amended independent claims 1, 15, 28, and/or 31 of the present application.

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480), alone or in combination. Since claims 2-3, 5-14, 16-17, 19-27, 29-30, and 32-35 depend from amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31, respectively, claims 2-3, 5-14, 16-17, 19-27, 29-30, and 32-35 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480), alone or in combination for at least the reasons amended independent claims 1, 15, 28 and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue et al. (US 2001/0048472) in view of Tanaka et al. (USPN 7,224,480), alone or in combination.

Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: October 20, 2008 By: Darleen J. Stockley

Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501